

Listing of Claims:

1-15. (Previously Cancelled)

16. (Previously Amended) A system for accessing an anatomic space having a wall with an outer surface, said system comprising:

an access tube having a distal end which can be selectively embedded into tissue for engagement with the outer surface such that the proximal movement of the distal end causes corresponding enlargement of the anatomic space; and

a needle having a lumen therethrough, said needle being configured to pass through the access tube and penetrate into the anatomic space when the access tube is embedded into the anatomic space wall.

17. (Original) A system as in claim 16, wherein the access tube includes an anchor structure at its distal end.

18. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein the anchor structure comprises one or more penetrating points.

19. (Original) A system as in claim 18, wherein the penetrating points are inclined so that they penetrate into tissue when the access tube is rotated about its long axis.

20. (Original) A system as in claim 16, further comprising a guidewire configured to be positioned into the anatomic space through the needle.

21. (Previously Presented) A kit for accessing the pericardial space between the visceral and parietal pericardium, said kit comprising:

an access tube having a distal end which can be selectively embedded into tissue; and

instructions for use setting forth a method for accessing an anatomic space having a wall with an outer surface, said method comprising:

embedding a distal end of an access tube into the outer surface;

drawing the access tube proximally to raise the wall over the anatomic space and to enlarge the anatomic space; and

introducing an access device through the access tube, penetrating the wall and into the anatomic space while the access tube stabilizes the wall.